

Council Workshop
February 18, 2004

Mayor Marse called to order the workshop of February 18, 2004.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Janice McLean, Earl King, Jean Arrant were present. Council members Scott Brannon and Mike Helton were absent. Also present: City Clerk Diane Riley, Fire Chief Jason Owens, Deputy Chief James Odom and several other fire fighters.

Councilwoman McLean presented an agenda of discussion topics. First on the agenda was the part time employees. James Odom explained what the employees were doing during their time on the job. Maintenance on the vehicle is being performed and ordering of paint for the hydrants has been done. There are 3 part time employees with a single 10 hour shift per day during the week. Councilwoman Arrant asked if there were job descriptions on each position. Councilman King asked if there was an oil pan sitting at the station. James Odom answered by stating it was a burn pan loaned to the department by Murphy Oil. King asked if they could dump it, so the public would stop asking why old oil was sitting around the station. The chief Owens will continue as head of the fire department, deputy chief Odom will have title only and be a part time employee and two other part time employees. Councilwoman Arrant felt that the Council should have a say so in the hiring of employees and wondered if the department volunteers have a problem with some being paid. Councilwoman McLean explained that the new regulations for the fire departments limited the hiring of employees, because of their lack of certifications. There were no other qualified people to hire at this time. Concern rose over several employees sitting around doing nothing. Councilwoman McLean stated that there would not be more than 1 person per day at the station working, so no one should ever work a forty-hour week by themselves.

Volunteer James Watson stated that we need to plan for the future and this was a good idea and shows that the City is preparing for the future. Councilwoman Arrant asked that the department start interacting with the children.

Uniforms have been ordered so that the employees look professional during public relations. Educational courses are in the works for furthering basic certification programs.

Chief Jason Owens stated that he was not resigning his position as Chief, due to a change in his schedule and felt he would be able to contribute more to the position. Mr. Odom and Mr. Owens are working on their differences. Councilman King stated his concern was that the Chief needs to represent the department and he should be at the Council meeting. Chief Owens replied by saying that he was instructed not to come to the meetings. Councilwoman Arrant requested that each volunteer treat everyone with respect out in the field. Councilman King requested that when the department goes to someone property and no one is there, to leave some form of identification to notify the owner that they were there. Councilwoman McLean stated that the department is designing a form to notify owners in such a case.

Volunteer James Watson asked if the department could purchase another set of jaws. Council responded by telling the department to put it in their budget. The jaws have been placed on the fire truck so all equipment goes on the call at the same time.

Councilman King asked about the old fire truck sitting at the public works office. Mayor Marse told him that it was the property of the water department so he needs to fix it for the water and sewer departments.

It was asked if there were decals for the trucks. There are some at the City Hall when needed.

James Odom asked if the Council had considered an impact fee for fire protection. After a brief discussion, Mayor Marse will talk to Attorney Adkinson about the process of implementing impact fees.

James Odom asked if the Council was hiring someone else to be fire chief. He and several others had heard that there was going to be a new chief. After discussion the Council stated that the fire chief was sitting in the audience.

With no other business, motioned to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council